DECLASSIFIED POL 23-9 LIBYA

Department of State

TELEGRAM

EXCISE

CONFIDENTIAL 101

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4785
INFO AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 2402

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2)

SUBJ: IDENTIFICATION MILITARY COUP LEADERS

REFS : TRIPOLI 2183, 2208

1. TRIPOLI PRESS REPORTED SEPTEMBER 10 THAT SA'ADDIIN ABU SHAWAARIB RETURNED TO LIBYA SEPTEMBER 9. ACCORDING NEWS STORY, HE FLEW FROM ROME TO TUNIS WITH NEW FOREIGN MINISTER BWAYSIIR, AND THEN TWO NEW LIBYAN LEADERS DROVE OVERLAND TO TRIPOLI.

2. WHEREABOUTS OF ABU SHAWAARIB WERE REPORTEDLY UNKNOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS EVEN TO RCC. [redacted] B I E D

[redacted] TRANSMITTED MESSAGE TO LIBYAN EMBASSY ROME ORDERING STAFF TO LOCATE ABU SHAWAARIB AND TELL HIM TO ESTABLISH CONTACT IMMEDIATELY WITH RCC. [redacted] B I E D RCC KNEW ONLY THAT ABU SHAWAARIB HAD GONE TO ITALY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. RCC HAD REPORTEDLY DECIDED THAT IF ABU SHAWAARIB COULD NOT BE LOCATED BE EVENING SEPTEMBER 6, HE WOULD BE DROPPED AND REPLACED (WHILE NOT SPECIFIED, PRESUMABLY AS CHEIF OF STAFF) BY ANOTHER MEMBER RCC. IN LIGHT YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT APPOINTMENT MINISTER DEFENSE AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF ARMED FORCES, IT NOT CLEAR WHERE IF AT ALL ABU SHAWAARIB NOW FITS IN.

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[redacted] B1 E D

[redacted] LTC ABU SHAWAARIB TWICE ATTENDED MILITARY TRAINING SCHOOLS IN US: ASSOCIATED INFANTRY OFFICER CAREER COURSE AT FORT BENNING FROM MAY TO OCTOBER 1963 AND COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL (REGULAR COURSE) AT FORT LEAVENWORTH JUNE 1964 TO JUNE 1965.

4. [redacted] ABU SHAWAARIB WAS BORN JUNE 16, 1934 IN TRIPOLI. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL IN TRIPOLI 1944-52. ENTERED EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACADEMY 1953 AND GRADUATED 1956 (DURING HEADY DAYS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY REGIME). HELD SERIES INFANTRY COMMANDS. PROMOTED TO LTC AUGUST 9, 1964. IN 1967 WAS OPERATIONS OFFICER OF FIRST INFANTRY BRIGADE. B1 E D

5. [redacted] ABU SHAWAARIB'S WIFE BECAME GREATLY CONCERNED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO ABOUT HIS NEW HABIT OF STAYING OUT NIGHT AFTER NIGHT UNTIL FOUR AND FIVE IN MORNING. SHE THOUGHT HE MUST BE OUT PARTYING, BUT NEVER FOUND ANY TRACES OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER WOMEN. OLDER WOMAN FROM WHOM SHE SOUGHT ADVICE WAS EQUALLY UNABLE FATHOM MYSTERIOUS BEHAVIOR WHICH DID NOT FIT USUAL PATTERN PHILANDERING HUSBAND. PRESUMABLY BOTH LADIES HAVE NOW FIGURED OUT MYSTERY. B1 E D

GP-4
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